

“The only specimens known to have occurred within the area of the two counties were taken at gas-lamps at Woodside, Plymouth.” He continues. “In 1863 I could have taken the insect, in almost any number, flying around some poplars growing at the side of Trews Weir.” (Exeter). It was also noted by Elliston Wright (1932. *Braunton, a few Nature Notes*) where it was said to have been taken at Halsinger Down, near Ilfracombe, and in 1934, R. J. Burton took larvae at the same locality. There is one other record from Yarnar Wood on 2 June 1989. The wings of this specimen were retained in a collection at the Forest Office; I have examined these remains and am not convinced they are this species. The Trews Weir site has no aspen growing; the Woodside, Plymouth site may not be viable, but is being checked.

A return visit to Hannaborough Moor on 27 May 2003 led to the capture of a Poplar Lutestring *Tetlea* or D.& S. Interestingly, there appear to be no other recent records of this species in Devon. The *Victoria County History of Devon*, 1906, notes that it was “Recorded in Stephen’s *Illustrations*.” It is said also to have been seen at Milber Down, Newton Abbot, at sugar, by J. Walker in August 1905, a site now mostly built upon. It is strange that C. G. Barrett omitted this record from the *VCH*. A more recent record is that from Maiden Down, near Westleigh on 15 July 1984 by H. T. King accompanied by T. and A. White. I had considered this to be doubtfully correct because the foodplant is not common in Devon. Ivimey-Cook (1984. *Atlas of the Devon Flora*) gives 144 sites where *Populus tremula* has been found, with a lot of these being modern plantings, but in the light of the recent find at Hannaborough Moor, the Maiden Down sighting will need to be investigated further.

At Hannaborough Moor again, on 31 May 2003, Rob Wolton, Barry Henwood, Peter Franghiadi, George Williams and myself recorded four further examples, along with what we believe to be a larva of *O. populeti*. A list of 94 other species included five or six specimens of the tortricid *Ancylis laetana* Fabr., a species which feeds also on Aspen. It is referred to (as *Ancylis lactana*) in the *Ilfracombe Flora and Fauna* (Palmer, 1946) in a list of “Some Smaller Moths of the Ilfracombe District,” on page 105. It was apparently taken by “F.R.E.W.” but there is no date or locality. This presumably relates to F. R. Elliston Wright, who lived at Braunton; the food plant is shown at Braunton by Ivimey-Cook (*op. cit.*). Bob Heckford said that he could find no other record than the one shown. We can only assume that the Hannaborough Moor examples are the first confirmed for Devon.— ROY MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.

***Otiorhynchus porcatus* (Herbst) (Col.: Curculionidae) in Northamptonshire.**

On 19 March 2003 I recorded a single male *Otiorhynchus porcatus* in my rural garden, in the village of Hemington (O. S. grid reference TL 091852), on the eastern borders of Northamptonshire with Cambridgeshire. The insect was found in a wheelbarrow used to transfer freshly cut lawn turf edgings, together with a selection of weeds from an herbaceous border. This is the first known occurrence of this species in a garden in which I have assiduously recorded Coleoptera for the past

years. Professor. M. G. Morris (1997, *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects* 5, pt. 17a) records that it is not known from East Anglia and the East Midlands and informs me (pers. comm.) that he is unaware of any more recent records from this region. There is the possibility that the weevil was introduced in pot grown plants. Inquiries of local garden centres, from which I have purchased shrubs and herbaceous plants in recent years, indicates that most of their stock is either grown in East Anglia and Lincolnshire, or has been imported from Holland.— R. COLIN WELCH, The Mathom House, Hemington, nr. Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 5QJ.

A record of *Strangalia aurulenta* Fabricius (Col.: Cerambycidae) from Co. Kerry

On 22.vii.2001, a warm and sunny day, I took two specimens of *Strangalia aurulenta* (one ♂, one ♀) from felled alder (*Alnus*) at Dungeel, near Killorglin. This riverside locality was cleared of alder about ten years ago but some branches were left strewn about while the larger logs and roots were gathered into two small piles. Both specimens were very conspicuous and were located within minutes of each other, one on an isolated branch and the second on a log pile. As far as I have been able to ascertain, this appears to be the most westerly Irish record of *aurulenta*.

This fine species was first noted from Ireland by W. W. Fowler, *The Coleoptera of the British Islands* (1890, 4) from Glengarriffe, Co. Cork, a record repeated by W. F. Johnson and J. N. Halbert in *A List of the Beetles of Ireland* (1902). However, it was A. W. Stelfox who first reported it from Co. Kerry, in the article “Notes on the distribution in Ireland of the Long-horn beetles, *Straugalia auruleuta*, *S. quadrifasciata* and *S. armata*” in 1937 (*The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 6: 156-158), where he first found it in the east of the county near Kilgarvan on 31.vi.1935. Significantly, he also noted the species from Cos. Waterford and Wicklow. The *Ent. Record* for 1953 (65: 149-150) contains an article entitled “Some Notes on *Strangalia aurulenta* Fab.”, written by the lepidopterist, H. C. Huggins, who was a regular visitor to Ireland, to the effect that he had observed the species on the Kenmare side of Glengarriffe in 1950 and again in 1952 at Barley Lake, in the same general area. Both are Co. Cork records, but very close to the boundary with Co. Kerry.

R. R. Uthoff-Kaufmann, 1988 (The occurrence of the genus *Straugalia* Serville (Col. Cerambycidae) in the British Isles. *Ent. Record* 100: 63-71) repeats the species known Irish distribution from Cos. Wicklow, Waterford, Cork and Kerry. M. C. D. Speight (1988. The Irish Cerambycid Fauna (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), *Bull. Irish Biogeographical Soc.* 11: 41-58) included some previously unpublished records and suggests that *aurulenta* must be regarded as vulnerable in Ireland.

It would appear that the insect's south and south-western British distribution, as outlined by F. G. Twinn and P. T. Harding in *Provisional atlas of the loughorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) of Britain* (1999) is mirrored by known records from Ireland. Stelfox had written “it is a powerful flier and for its bulk takes wing with alacrity. It would not be impossible therefore for it to spread in a district where cut timber is plentiful”. He had been unable to trace the species himself from any of the western parts of Kerry, but it is to be hoped that it is gradually expanding its